

MORGAN HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Message From Chief David Swing

Special points of interest:

- Reducing traffic collisions is one of the top priorities for the citizens of Morgan Hill
- There has been a 12% decrease in Morgan Hill's Crime Rate for 2014
- The Family Justice Center located in Morgan Hill is a safe place where domestic violence victims can get assistance from a variety of victim focused professionals

I am pleased to provide you with our 2014 Annual Report which shows a snapshot of the good work done by the women and men of the Morgan Hill Police Department throughout the year. The members of MHPD strive everyday to make Morgan Hill a safe community with a great quality of life. This is reflected not only in the figures on the following pages, but beyond those facts you can see the true dedication and commitment of each member of the Police Department to our community.

We view our community as a true partner in our endeavor to make Morgan Hill safe. During 2014, that partnership, along with

proactive policing, allowed us to realize a 12% decrease in crime. Our Citizens Police Academy, Volunteers in Policing program, and Community Emergency Response Team all play an integral part in our accomplishments.

During 2014 and up to the release of this report, a climate of uncertainty regarding police and community relations has been prevalent throughout our nation. I am proud to let you know that each MHPD officer selected public service as his/her profession with the intent to "protect and serve" our community. It is a choice not



Chief David L. Swing

made lightly, but one that requires steadfastness and dedication to the complex and challenging profession of law enforcement. Every day, each member of our team comes to work ready to perform their duties in a manner driven by the words of our Mission Statement.



Mission Statement

Your Morgan Hill Police Department is committed to deliver intelligence-based police services by partnering with the community to reduce crime, apprehend offenders, and improve quality of life with integrity, professionalism, and respect.

Our Mission is Guided by our Core Values:

Safety, Integrity, Respect, Professionalism, Pride, Team Work, Innovation

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Countywide Crime Rates

City or Town	Population	Officers	2014	2013
Saratoga	30,907	N/A	912	929
Monte Sereno	3,500	N/A	1000	1114
Los Altos Hills	8,334	N/A	1164	1212
Los Altos	29,431	30	1288	1534
Morgan Hill	39,876	39	1926	2177
Sunnyvale	147,055	107	1962	2033
Cupertino	60,550	N/A	1975	1715
Palo Alto	66,642	89	2062	2562
Los Gatos	29,500	38	2498	2281
Mountain View	76,260	96	2713	2768
San Jose	1,000,536	999	3254	3389
Santa Clara	120,245	147	3293	3064
Milpitas	70,092	81	3873	3611
Gilroy	52,413	58	4041	4472
Campbell	41,993	42	4327	4930
Average			2419	2519

The crime rate represents the severity of a crime problem within a given jurisdiction.

It is based on the number of crimes reported for each 100,000 population. The rate is calculated by multiplying the number of Part 1 offenses by 100,000. That number is then divided by the population of the service jurisdiction.

As you can see, we are among the cities that had a decreased crime rate for 2014. There could be a number of reasons for this, including proactive policing and the partnership we share with our community.

A factor to consider when comparing crime rates among jurisdictions is that different agencies have different thresholds for taking a report, and crime rates are only one factor in assessing the safety of a community.

N/A = Contract Cities (# of Officers is a combined total)

Property, Evidence & Forensics

Our Department's Property & Evidence Room houses over 32,000 items that range from weapons and narcotics to bicycles and cash. These items are collected either for safekeeping or retention for their association with the commission of a crime.

After an item is collected, some of them are packaged and

securely stored while others are prepared for delivery to the Santa Clara County Crime Lab to be analyzed; then they are securely stored as evidence during the prosecution of a case.

The Crime Lab assists law enforcement agencies throughout our County with specialized forensic science capabilities. These capabilities could include

analyzing blood samples or fingerprints collected at a crime scene.

Our Property & Evidence Technician is responsible for all items once they have been collected and bar coded until they have been returned to their rightful owner or have been destroyed in compliance with a court order.



Explorer POST 811

In partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, our Department proudly sponsors the Learning for Life Explorer Program. This co-ed, career-based volunteer program is for local students between the ages of 14 and 21. The program provides young adults the chance

to learn about law enforcement through training opportunities and interaction with law enforcement professionals. Explorers also assist with non-hazardous duties as well as participate in department and community events, such as; posting the Colors at the El Toro

Bowl at Live Oak High School. Our Explorer POST 811 strives to instill high morals, good judgment, active community participation, and the need to balance being successful at school while being involved in activities outside school.



Explorer Color Guard at Live Oak High School's Homecoming

Traffic Accidents

Reducing the number of traffic collisions is one of the top priorities for the citizens of Morgan Hill.

By placing a department-wide emphasis not only on traffic enforcement but also on outreach and education, we continue to help citizens become more aware drivers who practice safer driving.

One way of doing this is to provide information such as; the top five intersections where accidents occurred during 2014:

- Tennant Ave & Monterey Rd
- Cochrane Blvd between Sutter Blvd & Madrone Parkway
- Butterfield Blvd between Jarvis & E Main
- Monterey Rd & Watsonville Rd
- Monterey Rd from Cochrane to Madrone Pkwy



The chart below is another way to provide information regarding the number of traffic accidents that occurred in 2014.

Accidents	2011	2012	2013	3 Year Average	2014
With Injury	51	80	78	70	91
Property Damage	146	139	122	136	118
Total Accidents	197	219	200	205	209

South County Family Justice Center

The Family Justice Center (FJC) is a safe place where domestic violence victims can meet with an officer, the District Attorney, counselors and victim advocates to learn where and how to get assistance. The partners include the District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, Department of Family and Children Services, Victim/

Witness, the Step Forward Foundation, and Community Solutions.

Based on successful models operating in the Bay Area and beyond, the FJC is a "one-stop" consortium of agencies dedicated to working together to serve victims and their children in Southern Santa Clara County.

Opened in April 2014 and located at Community Solutions' offices at 16264 Church Street in Morgan Hill, the FJC is open on Wednesdays from 8 am to 5 pm and staffed with professionals ready to assist victims on an appointment or drop-in basis. All services are provided in English and Spanish.

For more information on the Family Justice Center contact Community Solutions at (408) 779-2113.



Motor Vehicle Thefts

Motor vehicle thefts can be defined as the theft or attempted theft of automobiles, sport utility vehicles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles. The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle is an ongoing problem that sometimes happens when the right opportunity has presented itself.

Not only are MHPD officers proactive trying to deter these thefts, but our County has a multi-jurisdictional task force, Regional Auto Theft Task Force. R.A.T.T.F. further assists in deterring, investigating, and prosecuting vehicle theft and related crimes.

But law enforcement alone can not stop motor vehicle thefts. Our community can also help by doing the following things:

- Lock your car and close all windows
- Park in a well lit area

- Keep valuables out of plain view or do not keep them in the vehicle
- Never leave the area while your vehicle is running

As you can see in the chart below, motor vehicle thefts in Morgan Hill have increased since 2012.

	2011 Full Year	2012 Full Year	2013 Full Year	3 Year Average	2014 Full Year
Motor Vehicle Theft	82	74	98	82	121

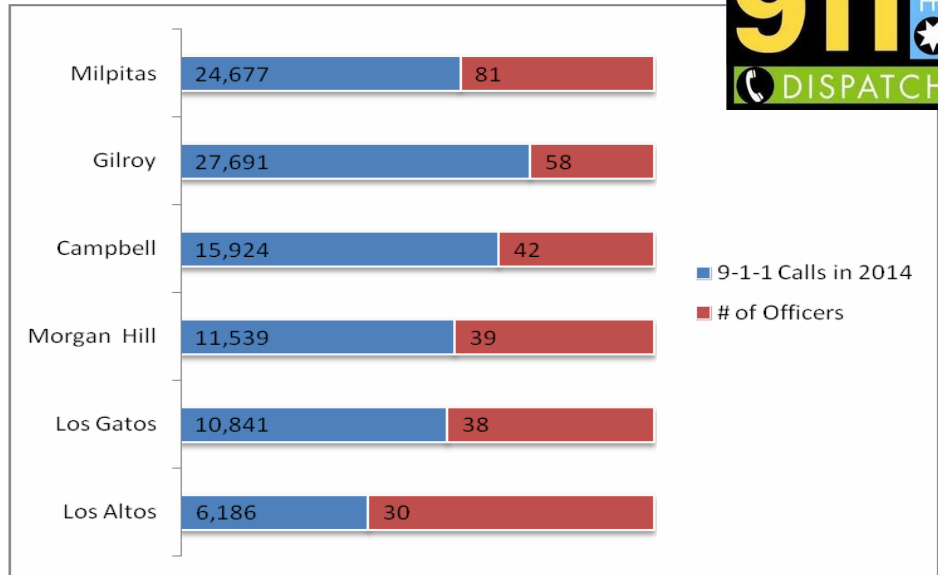
9-1-1 Calls & Public Safety Dispatchers



Did you know that our eight full-time Public Safety Dispatchers took 11,539 9-1-1 calls in 2014? Our dispatchers are responsible for not only answering emergency and non-emergency calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but also for handling a variety of tasks during their shifts, including dispatching police officers to the scene of an accident or crime and other situations, as well as relaying call details to the fire department, outside law enforcement agencies, and other emergency response resources as needed.

Our dispatchers work in a communications center that is outfitted with numerous electronic and communication devices to assist in monitoring, communicating and transferring information to emergency response personnel. An example of how our dispatchers use their resources and knowledge of our city and surrounding areas is their time-sensitive investigative work providing photos of wanted suspects to our officers during critical times.

Public Safety Dispatchers have training mandates that prepare them for their role, responsibilities and duties within a law enforcement agency, as well keeping them up-to-date on current public safety issues and trends.

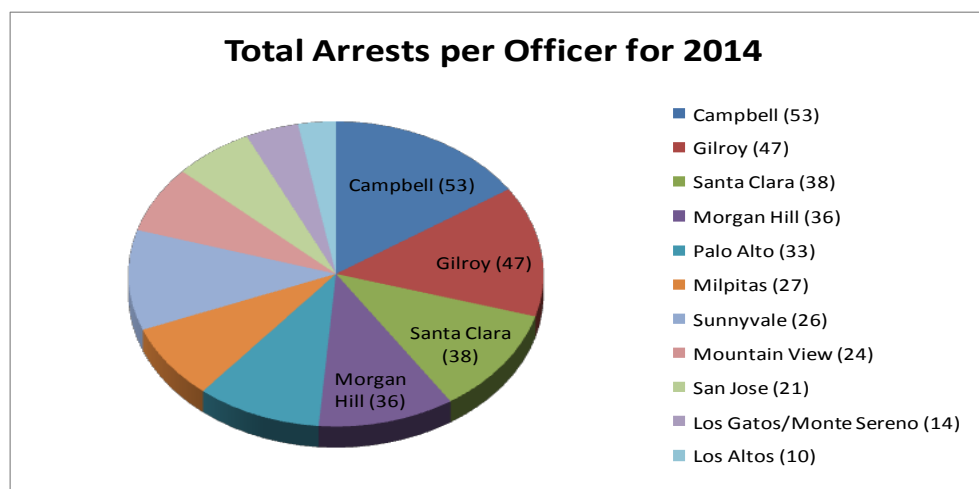


The chart above shows the number of 9-1-1 calls dispatchers handled as well as the number of officers for selected cities in Santa Clara County.

Arrests per Officer

This chart represents the number of arrests per officer.

As you can tell, our department ranks fourth for the number of arrests made by our officers as compared to the other law enforcement departments listed. This chart further illustrates the efficient and proactive work done by our department.



Cost of Public Safety

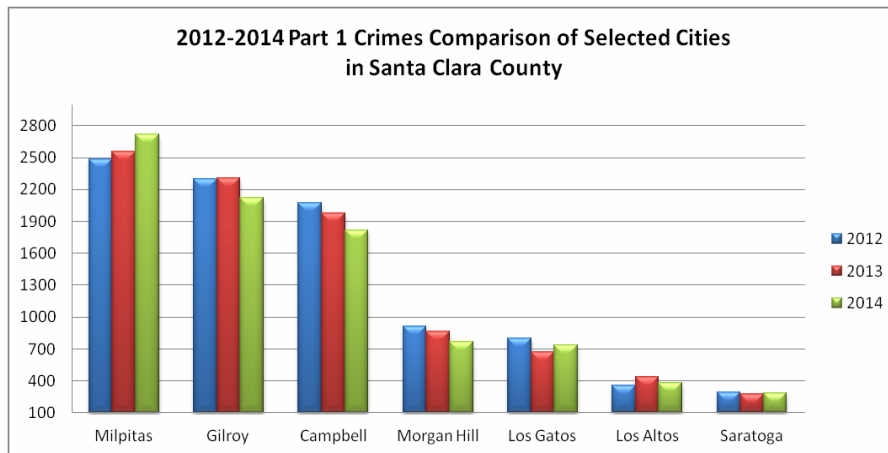


As represented in this graphic, a substantial amount of the City's annual budget is spent on Police and Fire services as public safety continues to be the number one priority of the City Council. As shown on the following pages, our Department has aligned our priorities, goals, and strategies with those of our City Council and our Strategic Plan to better enhance the law enforcement side of public safety.

While the police department's annual budget provides the necessary financial resources for day-to-day operations, the Community Law Enforcement Foundation Board of Directors and volunteers work to raise funds for the purchase of equipment and materials that are not within the police department's operating budget.

FBI Determined Part 1 Crimes

For the most part, Part 1 Crime Rates throughout Santa Clara County fluctuate year to year depending on a number of factors



Part 1 Crimes are defined by the FBI as being serious by nature and/or volume. This comparison chart represents the changes in yearly Part 1 Crimes reported from 2012-2014 for similar cities in our County.

As you can see, there has been a decrease in Part 1 Crimes in Morgan Hill.

Social Media: Facebook & Nixle

The availability of social media has made it possible for not only our community but those who live outside the South County area to stay connected with our Police Department. On any given day it is common to see multiple postings regarding department events, lost animals,

notification of potentially dangerous situations, and general note-worthy happenings. By providing current information to the public, we have been able to continue our on-going communication between our department and those around us.



Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morgan-Hill-Police-Department/118965498148916?fref=ts>

Sign-up for Nixle at:

<https://local.nixle.com/register/>

A Comparison of Crime Trends in Morgan Hill



Part 1 Crimes					
Category	2011	2012	2013	3 Year	2014
Homicide	1	0	1	.66	0
Rape	8	12	10	10	3
Robbery	16	13	10	13	21
Aggravated Assault	17	26	45	29	37
Simple Assault	150	159	121	143	88
Burglary	138	157	164	153	119
Theft	470	464	418	451	372
Vehicle Theft	82	74	98	85	121
Arson	12	6	1	6	7
Part 1 Crimes Totals	859	911	868	879	768

This chart compares the number of crimes for each of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting categories (crimes being serious by nature and/or volume) for the past four years in Morgan Hill. The FBI collects data on Part 1 Crimes from every law enforcement agency and reports it on an annual basis.

As shown in the chart above, the 2014 Part 1 Crimes Total for Morgan Hill is 12% lower than the total for 2013. The 2014 total also shows a decrease of 13% compared to the three year average for Part 1 Crimes.



On-going Law Enforcement Training

On-going training for police department personnel is an important part of making sure each individual has the skills needed to do the best job possible. This is shown by the effective and efficient service to our community.

Besides department training mandates, there are State of California law enforcement training mandates that must

occur during specific time frames. One of the training mandates is Emergency Operators Vehicle Course (EVOC) training to certify that not only our sworn and civilian personnel but also VIPs and Explorers who drive marked police vehicles have been trained in different driving techniques. Included are Slow Speed Defensive Driving (such as steering course, braking in a

turn, and reverse driving). In addition, our sworn personnel have trained in the Pursuit Intervention Technique. The PIT maneuver is a pursuit technique used to stop fleeing vehicles with minimal risk to the driver, the police and the public.



Slow Speed Defensive Driving Training



2014 Major Cases

~ In February, officers responded to a vehicle vs pedestrian collision. Upon arrival, officers located an unconscious male adult lying in the roadway with major head trauma and multiple compound fractures. Officers rendered first aid to the pedestrian and shut down the road to conduct their investigation. It was determined that the pedestrian had been walking in the middle of roadway and decided to lie down for unknown reasons. The pedestrian was transported to a local trauma hospital by paramedics. The driver of the vehicle did not appear to be intoxicated and remained at the scene of the accident.

~ In March, a San Jose-bound cargo train collided with a vehicle that had driven over a curb onto the sidewalk and eventually onto the railroad tracks. The train struck the vehicle head-on, and the driver was trapped inside the vehicle until first responders arrived to extract the driver, who was airlifted to a local trauma hospital. The driver succumbed to injuries at the hospital. At the time of the accident, it was undetermined why the driver drove onto the railroad tracks or if they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. There were no injuries to those aboard the cargo train, and a concurrent accident investigation was initiated by the cargo train's owner.

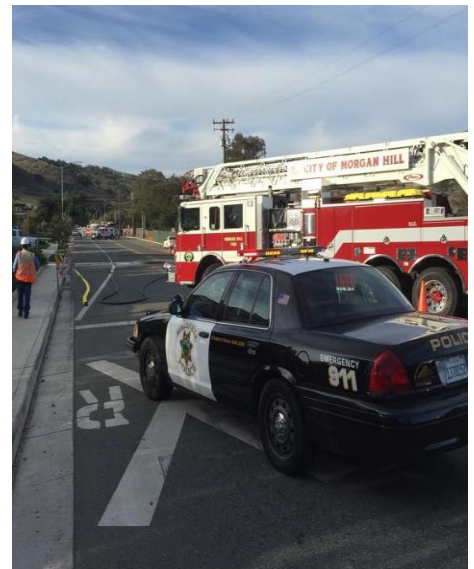
~ On an evening in March, officers responded to a local hotel on a report of a domestic assault. While responding to the call, officers learned that the suspect punched the victim during a heated argument. The victim was able to escape and call 9-1-1 for help. Officers attempted to contact the suspect in one of the hotel rooms, but the suspect refused to open the door and made deadly threats to harm the officers if they entered the room. The suspect then barricaded the door and refused any further police contact. Additional safety personnel were called to the scene, and several rooms were evacuated. A tactical operation plan was developed; after several hours, entry was made into the room. The suspect was located, and safely taken into custody, and later booked in County Jail.

~ During the early morning hours in August, an unidentified suspect used a burglary tool to shatter the front window of a local cyclery shop. The suspect successfully removed the lock from two high-end, unique bicycles and fled the area with them. Officers arrived on scene within four minutes of the initial call but were unable to locate the suspect. The suspect was captured on surveillance video but is still at large.

~ In October, an officer initiated a vehicle traffic enforcement stop for a defective windshield. Upon contact with the occupants of the vehicle, the officer could see open alcoholic beverage

containers and detected the odor of marijuana emitting from the interior of the vehicle. The occupants were removed from the vehicle, and as officers searched the interior of the vehicle, they located a loaded handgun hidden between the seats. Two of the vehicle's occupants were arrested on several charges, which included falsely identifying oneself and possession of a loaded firearm by a convicted felon.

~ In November, officers were dispatched to a possible hit-and-run accident with people fighting in a parking lot. It was later determined that two suspects were caught by the vehicle's owner in the act of attempting to steal the vehicle. The owner confronted one of the suspects while the suspect was tampering with the vehicle's ignition. The other suspect was waiting nearby in a previously stolen vehicle and initially rammed the victim's vehicle twice, forcing the victim to jump out of the way to avoid being hit. The suspects fled the scene, and after they failed to yield to an enforcement stop, officers initiated a vehicle pursuit that ended in San Jose. Both suspects exited the stolen vehicle and attempted to flee on foot. They were both taken into custody and booked in County Jail on numerous charges, including outstanding warrants.



Morgan Hill Police Department



Business Phone: 408-776-7300

**24-Hour Non-Emergency Phone
408-779-2101**

**16200 Vineyard Boulevard
Morgan Hill, CA 95037**

<http://www.morganhill.ca.gov>

For Emergencies, Call 9-1-1